



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PARK COMMISSION VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Location: ZOOM

**DATE:** February 9, 2021

**PRESENT:** Ami Van Antwerp, Amanda Lick, Michael McDonald, Mary Nardo Farris, Mark Stephens,

**EXCUSED:** None

**STAFF:** LuAnn Maisner, Director of Parks and Recreation

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair Lick called the meeting to order at 12:03pm

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Stephens moved TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. Seconded by Commissioner Van Antwerp

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

**3. PRESENTATIONS - NONE**

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT - NONE**

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. January 26, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes – Moved to March 9 meeting

**6. COMMUNICATIONS - NONE**

**7. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- A. **Labyrinth** – Staff is working with Dr. Rajendra for future development of a labyrinth in Central Park.
- B. **Pinwheel Garden Request** – Small Talk Children's Advocacy Center has requested to utilize a few parks in our community to plant blue pinwheel gardens in recognition of "April is Child Abuse Prevention Month". Staff is working to identify optimal locations.
- C. **Capital Area Youth Cycling Club** – members are working with us to better maintain and improve the pump track at Eastgate Park. They are also offering Adventure Bike Club Tuesday nights, 6-8pm, 8/weeks starting in June to engage youth in cycling. They are planning a work day for pump track improvements on April 24 and 25
- D. **Micro Pantry Application Ottawa Hills Park and Hartrick Park** Girl Scout Troop 30293 Okemos, Kelly Bianchi leader – Has requested to place micro pantries in Hartrick Park and Wonch Park. Following discussions by the Park Commissioners, Director Maisner will invite Kelly to attend the next meeting to present her request.

- E. Tree City Application** – Environmental Commission is working to seek a “Tree City” designation for our community. More information will be presented at a future meeting as talk of a tree ordinance being developed that will include the Park Commission.
- F. DNR Free Fishing Weekend** – two (2) groups of 11 children are registered to participate in our annual event. The group size is limited based on Covid restrictions. Due to frigid temps, the event that was scheduled for February 7 was postponed to a future date.
- G. The formal crosswalk signals on Central Park Drive** are scheduled for installation on April 16.
- H. Central Meridian Regional Trail Connector** – work continues

## 8. ACTION ITEMS

### A. 2021 DNR Grant Submission – Towner Road Playground

Commissioner Lick moved TO REQUEST STAFF TO PREPARE A GRANT APPLICATION FOR SUBMISSION TO THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FEDERAL LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND PROGRAM FOR A PLAYGROUND AREA AND ACCESS SIDEWALKS IN TOWNER ROAD PARK FOR SUBMISSION BY APRIL 1, 2021. Seconded by Commissioner Stephens

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

### B. Set Public Hearing Date – Towner Road Playground Grant Submission

Commissioner McDonald moved TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE TOWNER ROAD PARK PLAYGROUND GRANT APPLICATION TO THE MDNR FEDERAL LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND DURING THE VIRTUAL REGULAR PARK COMMISSION MEETING ON MARCH 9, 2021 AT 12 NOON. Seconded by Commissioner Van Antwerp

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

## 9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Red Cedar River Improvements** – The commission briefly discussed looking into opportunities for improving the Red Cedar River between Ferguson and Wonch Parks for recreational use. The Commission will take this up more formally at a future meeting.
- B. New Township Signage** - Director Maisner shared that work is being done currently to replace the Welcome to Meridian signs and other signage throughout the community. The parks will also look to update their signage to blend with brand standards.

## 10. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - NONE

## 11. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

- A. Commissioner Comments
- B. Events Calendar:
  - 1. Farmers' Market:
    - a. First and Third Saturdays, 11 am – 1 pm, January-April, Marketplace on the Green

## 12. CLOSED SESSION - NONE

**13. ADJOURNMENT** – Hearing no objections, Chair Lick adjourned the meeting adjourned at 1:19 pm

**14. NEXT MEETING**

- A. The next meeting is scheduled to be held virtually on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 12 noon via zoom.